

LIBRARY

SWAFFHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT for year ending December 31st, 1937,

by the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1937.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres) 93,216.

Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population Mis. 1937..... 7,613.

No. of inhabited houses according to Rate Books end of 1937..... 2,321.

Rateable value..... £18,872.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate..... £94.

The chief Industry is Agriculture.

The District is composed of 29 Parishes. The population of the area is scattered.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Live Births, Legitimate.....	98.	47.	45.
Illegitimate....		3.	3.

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimates Resident Population. 12.8

Still Births..... 2. 1. 1
(Illegitimate)

Rate per 1,000 total (Live or Still) Births..... 10

Deaths..... 105 50 55

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population. 13.79.

Deaths from Puerperal causes. (Headings 29 & 30 of the Registrar General's Short List.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate for 1,000 total Live and Still Births.</u>
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No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis..... Nil. Nil.

No. 30 Other Puerperal causes... Nil. Nil.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
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Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age. 6 4 2

All Infants per 1,000 live births..... 61

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate

Live Births..... 60

Illegitimate ditto..... 166

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Deaths from Cancer all ages.....	7	11	18
Deaths from Measles ditto	Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough all ages.		1	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).	Nil.	Nil.	

General Provision of Health Service for the Area.

(1) Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

(a) District Medical Officer of Health.
(b) Sanitary Inspector) Certified Royal Sanitary
Meat and Foods Inspector) Institute, London.

No Health Visitors or Assistants are employed by the Council.

(2) Nursing in the Home.

(a) General. No nursing is provided by the Local Authority. A County Council Health Visitor visits the majority of the parishes in the Area in connection with Child Welfare. 4 District Nurses visit certain parishes when required.

(3) Infectious Diseases. There is no provision made for ordinary infectious diseases.

Midwives. The Local Authority does not employ or subsidize Midwives. The County Council is the supervising Authority under the Midwives' Act.

Laboratory Facilities. Samples of water and materials for Bacteriological examination are sent to the Public Analyst at Norwich and County Laboratories.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply. Water for domestic use is obtained chiefly from wells. Samples are taken for analysis where pollution is suspected. Full advantage is taken to have wells cleaned out, repaired, and internal face of wells rendered with cement to prevent surface drainage. Shallow wells are deepened. This procedure results in an improvement of the quality and quantity of the water supplies. New water supplies have been obtained by the sinking of deep bores, and wells lined with concrete tubes.

Rivers and Streams. There was no serious pollution but rivers and water courses require cleaning out to allow a proper flow of the water and to assist natural drainage.

Drainage and Sewerage. There is no system of drainage or sewerage in the Area. A number of large houses have their own schemes, but cottages dispose of slops and other waste water on the gardens or into ditches. The open sewers are kept cleansed and obsolete drains are reconstructed. Properly constructed drainage to soakaways or cesspools would be an advantage in cases of property with small ground space. New houses are now being provided with modern drainage.

Closet Accommodation. There are still a number of old, insanitary privy vaults in the District. Most of these are situated on farms and other premises where ample land is available for disposal of the refuse. Progress in obtaining the conversion of these to the more sanitary pail closets continues, especially where they are situated near houses or wells.

No. converted to pail system during the year....	39
Privy vaults repaired.....	9
Additional Sanitary Conveniences provided.....	11

Public Cleansing. There is no public system of controlled scavenging in the Area. The increasing accumulation of tins, bottles, and other similar refuse is a serious nuisance. This type of refuse is deposited in out of the way corners, ditches and roadside verges causing danger to cattle and spoiling the countryside. Where cottages have small gardens, the continual depositing of this refuse has resulted in the land being in some instances 2 to 3 feet higher than the ground floor level thus causing dampness to the houses.

Your Sanitary Inspector has succeeded in arranging schemes with the co-operation of the Parish Councils of Foulden, Gooderstone and Bradenham for the collection and disposal of this refuse in disused pits. The schemes are much appreciated and efforts are being made to complete schemes for the whole Area.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The Sanitary Inspector makes frequent visits to each parish. His report in tabular form is as under :-

Complaints investigated.....	31
Total No. of inspections made under the	
Public Health & Housing Acts.....	765
No. of water samples taken.....	35
No. of interviews with owners.....	64
No. of Milk samples taken.....	84
No. of preliminary notices.....	76
No. of Statutory Notices served :-	
(a) Housing Acts.....	8
(b) Public Health Acts.....	17
No. of Houses repaired and improved.....	64
No. of houses disinfected (Infectious disease)	20
Insanitary privy vaults improved.....	9
Privies converted to pails.....	39
Accumulations of refuse removed.....	4
Additional Sanitary conveniences obtained..	11
New drainage system constructed.....	13
Inspection of Salughterhouses.....	76
Inspection of Carcasses.....	226
No. of carcasses condemned.....	6
No. of Shops inspected -	
Butchers.....	130
Fried Fish.....	10
General Stores....	23
Bakehouses.....	16
Workshops.....	15
Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies.....	218
Inspections of Factories.....	6
Milking Sheds reconstructed.....	8
New Cowsheds built.....	4

Shop Act 1934.

No. of Shops in the District.....	60
These may be classified as under :-	
General Stores.....	45
General Stores with Post Office.....	13
Directly attached to the House.....	55
Lock-up Shops.....	5
Shops run by occupiers.....	55
Shops employing Assistants.....	5

In all cases the sanitary conveniences and ventilation are suitable and sufficient.

Eradication of Bed Bugs. Although many houses are very old and constructed of material likely to harbour bugs, I have not had any complaints and your Sanitary Inspector assures me that he has not seen any evidence of infestation.

Schools. There are 21 Elementary Schools. The provision for drying clothes is inadequate, and should be remedied. The sanitary arrangements are kept in good condition. Some schools were closed when the incidence of infectious disease was very heavy. This applied almost entirely to influenzal coughs and colds. In this respect, the reports from the teachers ~~are~~ have been most helpful.

Housing. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year.

Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....	459
Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925...)	234
Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....	53
Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....	79
Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal notices.....	
2. Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal notice by the Local Authority of their Officers.....	64
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year. Proceedings under Sec.9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act 1936.	
No. of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.....	8
No. of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices - By Owners.....	4
By Local Authority in default.....	2

Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

No. of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....	17
No. of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices. - By Owners.....	14
By Local Authority in default.....	Nil.

Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of Housing Act, 1936.

No. of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.....	11
No. of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.....	2

Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

No. of tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.....	17
No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Tenant or room having been rendered fit.....	Nil.

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. - Overcrowding.

No. of dwellinghouses overcrowded at end of year....	27
No. of families dwelling therein.....	27
No. of persons dwelling therein.....	192
No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.....	Nil.
No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.....	10
No. of persons concerned in such cases.....	63
Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.....	Nil.

Overcrowding. There are many instances where the permitted number of persons coincide with the number in the family. Although these cottages are not legally overcrowded, more bedroom accommodation is desirable and needed. The back kitchens measuring 8'0" x 9'0" usually contain a copper and wall oven, and although meals taken in this room generally in the summer only, in my opinion these back kitchens may more properly be termed Sculleries and should not be counted as living rooms.

Inspection of Houses. During the year I accompanied your Sub-Committees on the inspection of 63 houses which were considered unfit for habitation. The action taken is as under :-

Demolition Orders made.....	11
Closing Orders made on parts of a building.....	17
Undertakings not to re-let, accepted.....	12
Houses on which definite action was pending at the end of the year.....	13
Houses repaired, or in progress.....	9
Houses on which Demolition Orders, and Closing Orders were operative, or on which Undertakings were accepted, but were still occupied at the end of the year.....	44

Accommodation for Elderly Persons. There is need for the bungalow type of dwelling for elderly couples or single persons in nearly all parishes. The old people find difficulty in mounting the narrow winding staircases to be found in nearly all old cottages.

Rural Workers' Act. Reconstruction schemes were carried out in the following parishes involving 17 houses. Two schemes were in progress at the end of the year. Additional light, ventilation, bedroom accommodation, washhouses, water supply and proper food stores greatly improved these houses.

<u>New Houses.</u>	No. built during the year :-	
	By the Council (in course of erection)..	47
	Other Bodies.....	10

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply. 135 Producers and Retailers are registered in this District under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. 7 Notices were served to reconstruct floors and drainage. Verbal instruction in regard to cleanliness and methods, had the desired effect in many cases. As a result, more interest is being taken in the premises and methods of production.

Milk (Special Designation) Orders, 1923-1936.

There are 18 Accredited Producers.

No. of samples taken.....	84
Passed.....	62
Failed.....	9
Repeat samples....	12

Meat and other Foods. Your Sanitary Inspector, who is a qualified Mead and Foods Inspector, carries out the inspection of meat and other foods under the Public Health Acts and Meat Regulations.

	<u>Carcases Inspected and Condemned -</u>				
	<u>Cattle</u> <u>excluding</u> <u>Cows.</u>	<u>Cows.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep &</u> <u>Lambs.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
No. killed (Approx.)	36	Nil.	Nil.	180	230
No. inspected.	17	Nil	Nil	73	136
All diseases except T.B.					
Whole carcases condemned.	Nil.	Nil	Nil	6	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	4
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with disease other than T.B... Nil		Nil	Nil	4.38	5.4
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	2
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with tuberculosis..... Nil		Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	5.4

It has not been necessary to "seize" any foods under Sections 116-119 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

There is no Public Slaughterhouse.

No. of Private Slaughterhouses :-
Registered... 7. Licensed... 8.

These slaughterhouses are situated many miles apart, and long journeys are often made by the Inspector in an endeavour to inspect carcases at the time of killing, especially for emergency slaughter.

Other Foods. The Bakehouses are clean, and two are up-to-date in appliances and construction.

There are five Fish-frying premises which have modern apparatus, and are kept clean and in good order. Inspections are made of these as often as possible.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1937.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Smallpox.	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	15	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria.	5	Nil	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid). . .	1	1	1
Puerperal Fever	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	4	Nil	1
Erysipelas.	3	Nil	Nil

Cases notified. Age

under

1 year 2-3-4 5-10 15-20 34-45 55-65.

Scarlet Fever	7	6	2		
Diphtheria.	2	2	1		
Typhoid.			1		
Pneumonia.			1	1	1
Erysipelas.			1	2	

Prevalence of and control over Infectious Disease, and other Diseases.

A total number of 24 cases occurred during the year, as under.

Scarlet Fever 15. Diphtheria 5. Erysipelas 3. Typhoid 1.
Pneumonia 4.

There were 6 cases of Scarlet Fever in Hilborough, 2 at Mundford, and 1 in Oxborough during the first three months of the year. The others were isolated cases occurring during July to October. The Diphtheria cases were contacts from the adjoining Wayland Rural District, and one case ended fatally. One case remained persistant at the end of the year. The Typhoid case was removed to the Norwich Hospital because of complications, and the patient died.

Hilborough School was closed on account of Scarlet Fever, and other schools were closed for short intervals on account of Influenza colds. The fact that there is no Hospital for Infectious disease serving the Area necessitates the children being nursed at home, and the spread of the disease is enhanced to some extent as it is impossible in many instances to enforce complete isolation. Intimations from schools have been helpful. There was a fairly severe epidemic of Influenza during February, March and April. This was wide-spread throughout the district.

There are no facilities for artificial immunisation against Diphtheria.

Examinations of Pathological and Bacteriological specimens are made at the County Laboratory in Norwich without charge. These facilities are being made use of and are appreciated.

Anti Diph Serum is supplied by the District Council.

Isolation. The best possible arrangements are made to isolate a patient at a small cottage. Special cases are sent to the Norwich City Isolation Hospital, at the expense of the Council. This procedure was not necessary during the year.

Disinfection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, using Formalin Gas.

Tuberculosis. Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action has been necessary.

Public Health Act, 1925 - Section 62.

No action has been necessary.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
35	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Totals.	2	6	-	-	3	2	-	-

A Register is kept of all cases notified.

Disinfectants are supplied and premises disinfected after deaths.

The County Council are responsible for the administration of the Tuberculosis Orders and their Medical Officer supervises these cases.

Extract from the Report relating to the Administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, forwarded to the Secretary of State and Home Office.

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Occupiers prosecuted.</u>
Factories.	6	Nil
Workshops.	16	Nil
Workplaces.	15	Nil
<u>Defects.</u>	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>
Want of Cleanliness.	Nil	Nil
Other nuisances.	Nil	Nil

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. S. HALL-SMITH.

